

DICKENS IN 1842.

What He Said to a Boston Audience About His Paper 'Sketches'... It is not easy for a man to speak of his own books. I dare say that few persons have been more interested in mine than I, and if it be a general principle in nature that a lover's love is blind, and that a mother's love is blind, I believe, it may be said of an author's attachment to the creatures of his own imagination, that it is a perfect model of constancy and devotion and is the blindest of all. But the objects and purposes I have had in view are very plain and simple and may be easily told. I have always had, and always shall have, an earnest and true desire to contribute, as far as in me lies, to the common stock of healthful cheerfulness and enjoyment. I have always had, and always shall have, an invincible repugnance to that mole-eyed philosopher which loves the darkness, and winks and scowls in the light. I believe that virtue shows quite as well in rags and patches as she does in purple and fine linen. I believe that she and every beautiful object in external nature claims some sympathy in the breast of the poorest man who breaks his scanty loaf of daily bread. I believe that she dwells rather oftener in alleys and byways than she does in court and palace; and that it is good and pleasant and profitable to track her out and follow her. I believe that to lay one's hand upon some of those rejected ones whom the world has too long forgotten, and too often misused, and to say to the proudest and most thoughtless, these creatures have the same elements and capacities of goodness as yourselves; they are moulded in the same form and made of the same clay; and though ten times worse than you, may, in having retained anything of their original nature amidst trials and distresses of their condition, be really ten times better. I believe that to do this is to pursue a worthy and not useless avocation. Gentlemen, that you think so, too, your fervent greeting sufficiently assures me.

GLASS JEWELS.

How Beads are Made in Venice—Imitation Pearls and Diamonds. From Harper's Weekly. Most of the world's beads are Venetian. In the island of Murano 1,000 workmen are devoted to this branch. The first process is to draw the glass into tubes of the diameter of the proposed bead. For this purpose the glass house at Murano has a kind of rope-walk gallery 150 feet long. By gathering various colors from different tubes and twisting them into one mass many combinations of colors are made. The tubes are carefully sorted by diameters and chipped into fragments of uniform size. These pieces are stirred in a mixture of sand and ashes, which fills the holes and prevents the sides from closing together when they are heated. They are next placed in a kind of frying pan, constantly stirred over a fire until the edges are rounded into a globular form. When cool they are shaken in one set of sieves until the ashes are separated, and in another series of sieves until they are perfectly sorted by sizes. Then they are threaded by children, tied in bunches, and exported to the ends of the earth. France has long produced the "pearl beads," which, in the finer forms, are close imitations of pearls. They are said to have been invented by M. Dupin in 1828. The common variety, threaded for ornament, is blown from glass tubes. An expert workman can blow 5,000 to 6,000 globules in a day. They are lined with powdered fish scales and filled with wax. It takes 15,000 fish to make a pound of the scaly essence of pearl. Until recently the heirs of Jacquin still carried on a large factory of these neck pearls. The best of them are blown irregular, to counterfeit nature. Some in pear shape, others like olives, and they easily pass for genuine. Imitation gems formerly enjoyed the chief attention of the highest artificers in glass. They are still the chief idea of ornamental glass in China. In the ancient and middle ages they circulated everywhere without much danger of discovery, and their formulas were held as precious secrets. Clancourt first published their compositions in 1686. Now they are common property, and, with the growth of science in the past century, an expert knowledge has become widely disseminated which easily detects the paste from the real jewel—particularly as the modern false stones are less successful copies than the old glassmakers produced. More study is now given to artificial gems, which are true gems, being composed of the same material as the genuine ones, but manufactured.

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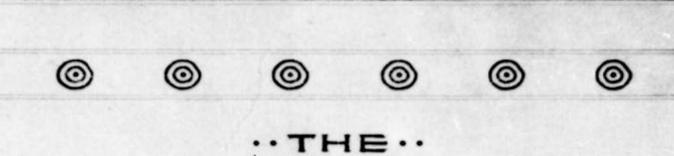
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